



AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole recessed the Work Session to go into Executive Session at 9:05 a.m. Mayor Leffingwell was absent because he was traveling on City business.

The City Council went into Executive Session, pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, to receive advice from Legal Counsel, to discuss matters of land acquisition, litigation, and personnel matters as specifically listed on this agenda and to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding any other item on this agenda

- A.1 Discuss legal issues related to Austin Lifecare, Inc. v City of Austin et al. Cause No. 1:11-CV-875-LY & Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin, et al. v City of Austin et al. Cause No. 1:11-CV-00876-LY; In the U.S. District Court- Western District of Texas (Austin Division) (private consultation with legal counsel pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Government Code).

Executive Session ended and Mayor Pro Tem Cole called the Work Session back to order at 10:27 a.m.

BRIEFINGS

- B.1 Ambulance Staffing Model.
This item was withdrawn without objection.

COUNCIL ITEMS OF INTEREST

- C.1 Discussion of potential times and locations for off-site public hearings on proposed Austin Energy electric rates.
Staff was directed to look at Austin Community College – either East View or the Pinnacle campus as a possible site for the public hearing. There was agreement that the hearings will be televised. The deadline for when the rate increase must be decided will be discussed further on Thursday.
- C.2 Discussion of potential agenda topics for Council Policy Retreat.
In general, the topics proposed were:
- Council expectations and understanding of how the Comprehensive Plan will be utilized for policy guidance and planning. This was expanded to include the November bond items.
 - Discussion of current and previous Council committee structures.
 - Encouraging development that provides community benefits and supports community priorities such as affordable housing and sustainability.

- **City support for and collaborations with school districts that fall within the City of Austin boundaries. This was expanded to include youth planning collaborative actions that are occurring and will impact the City in the future.**

The City Attorney advised the posting language will be broad enough to give Council the maximum flexibility in discussing items during their retreat. The retreat will be held at the Palmer Events Center on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Robena Jackson from Group Solution RJW will be the facilitator.

The Mayor introduced the agenda for the January 26, 2012 Council meeting and allowed Council to give input or ask questions on any item posted on the agenda. Staff was available to provide verbal responses to Council questions. Discussion was held on the following items taken from Thursday's agenda.

Austin Energy

59. Austin Energy Quarterly briefing.

When the next briefing on the rate increase is heard, Council requested the following topics be discussed:

- o **Allocation method used in the current rate increase proposal**
- o **Revenue requirements including:**
 - **Debt service**
 - **Reserve fund**
 - **Low income users' actual consumption**
 - **Fixed fees impact on low income users**
- o **Appropriate test year**
- o **General fund transfer**
- o **Possibility of an interim rate**
- o **Capital expenditures**
- o **Religious institutions, schools and low income users – what can be done to assist these groups that cannot afford the proposed rate increase – weatherization, assistance programs, etc.**
- o **CAP program and how these funds are distributed**
- o **Eligibility of the low income users**
- o **Value of solar rate**
- o **Plan for renewable energy and efficiency as it pertains to the rate increase**
- o **Impact of Council's decision on the financial policies adopted by previous Councils**

Transportation

38. Authorize negotiation and execution of an updated Multiple Use Agreement between the Texas Department of Transportation and the City of Austin for the operation, maintenance, and charging of parking fees on the surface parking lots located under IH-35 between East 6th and East 8th Streets in Austin, Texas.

Contract Management

10. Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the Construction Manager at Risk contract with HENSEL PHELPS CONSTRUCTION CO. for additional preconstruction phase services for the New Central Library and related improvements in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 for a total preconstruction authorization of \$748,339.

9. Authorize execution of a construction contract with LAUGHLIN-THYSSEN, INC. for the Williamson Creek - Blarwood Storm Drain Improvements in the amount of \$5,485,443 plus a \$548,544.30 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$6,033,987.30.

Fire

12. Authorize execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District regarding the continuation of the Fire Technology Program at Lyndon Baines Johnson High School.

Purchasing Office

29. Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 13-month requirements service contract with CYTEL GROUP, INC., to provide assistance in the preparation and execution of the Austin Urban Area Security Initiative training exercise for the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in an estimated amount not to exceed \$350,000.

Items from Council

46. Authorize the City Manager to execute a co-sponsorship agreement with the Nosotros Los Tejanos Parade Committee to waive special event fees not to exceed \$10,500 relating to the Nosotros Los Tejanos Parade to be held on Saturday, March 31, 2012. (Notes: SPONSOR: Council Member Mike Martinez CO 1: Mayor Lee Leffingwell)

Mayor Pro Tem Cole adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m. without objection.

To see the complete agenda for Thursday's meeting refer to the January 26, 2012 Council Agenda. (For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk.)

The minutes for the work session of January 24, 2012 were approved on this the 2nd day of February 2012 on Council Member Spelman's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Cole's second on a 7-0 vote